

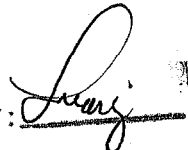
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) S.S
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'04 JUN 30 P10:34

SENATE

S.B. No. 973

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The first successful defense of Filipino freedom against Western imperialism and the first recorded triumph of Filipino arms over superior western firepower took place in the historic battle of Mactan four hundred seventy eight (478) years ago. This victory catapulted Lapu-lapu into the limelight of history as the first Filipino hero.

An account told by the late historian Gregorio Zaide discloses that upon the arrival of the Spanish fleet under the command of Ferdinand Magellan in March 1521, most of the local chieftains had converted Christianity and accepted Spanish rule. For instance, Rajah Humabon of Cebu and even Zula, one of the two kings of Mactan, submitted to Spanish power and agreed to be subjects of Spain.

Zaide then continues by observing that, inspired by his initial successes, Magellan ordered all other chieftains in Cebu and the neighboring islands to recognize Humabon as their king and kiss his hand as a sign of homage.

Only one Filipino ruler dared defy Magellan. He was Lapu-lapu, the proud and lion-hearted king of Mactan.

For his refusal to submit to Spain's might, as well as, for fighting Zula, who was by then a subject and good friend of Spain, Magellan decided to subdue Lapu-lapu by force of arms.

At dawn on April 27, 1521, Magellan invaded Mactan. His force consisted of 60 armored Spanish soldiers in three big boats and 1, 000 Cebuan allies in his men to remain in their boats and just watch how Europeans fight, Magellan and his men waded in the shallow shores of Mactan. There they found Lapu-lapu calmly awaiting their attack with his warriors arranged in three battle columns.

Despite Magellan's ultimatum to submit peacefully Lapu-lapu replied: "I submit to no king and pay no tribute to any power. If our enemy have lances of iron, we have also lances of bamboo and stakes hardened in fire."

Magellan's men, with their arquebuses, fired the first shots, but this proved ineffectual. The brave Mactans, fighting in the defense of their liberty and honor, firmly stood their ground. As the invaders came nearer they raised their war cries and hurled their javelins, arrows, flaming stakes and stones.

In the fierce hand-to-hand fighting that ensued, the white invaders were soundly defeated. Magellan ordered a retreat, but this was too late. He died from several mortal blows, one of which caused him to fall face downwards on the beach of Mactan.

Lapu-lapu's victory at Mactan was a serious blow to European prestige. Western accounts of the battle written from the European point of view and naturally slanted to present Magellan's defeat in a less disastrous light cannot disguise the fact that the Spanish invasion of Mactan was a total failure and that Lapu-lapu, by staging the first successful Filipino resistance to Western aggression on our soil, deserves no less than a hero's recognition.

At present, a small monument in Opon, Mactan is all that stands to honor Lapu-lapu, the hero's conqueror of Magellan. By declaring a day in his memory we hope to give him the same honor we accord to our other national heroes.



JINGGOX EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
TO DECLARE APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY
OF LAPU-LAPU AND HIS MEN OVER THE SPANIARDS LED BY FERNANDO
MAGALLANES IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN ON APRIL 27, 1521.
TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU DAY OR ADLAW NI LAPU-LAPU.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The twenty-seventh day of April of every year is hereby declared as a special non-working holiday throughout the country to commemorate the victory of Lapu-lapu and his men over the Spaniards in the historic Battle of Mactan on April 27, 1521 to be known as Lapu-lapu Day or Adlaw ni Lapu-lapu.

SECTION 2. To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government owned and controlled corporations as well as local government units, and employers in the private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient time and participate in any activity conducted in their respective localities to celebrate Lapu-lapu Day or Adlaw ni Lapu-lapu.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect three (3) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulations or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,